



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone


(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

www.nr.utah.gov

June 19, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist 

RE: Site Inspection, Natural Organic Fertilizer Mill Site, S/019/054, Grand County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 29, 2003  
Time of Inspection: about 8:00 to 9:15 p.m.  
Conditions: Mostly cloudy with thunderstorms in the area, 80's  
Participants: Paul Baker (DOGM)

#### Purpose of Inspection:

I was in the area and wanted to visit the site. In addition, the Division had been considering having the Board visit this site as part of a tour in the area. Also, I have been concerned whether the site might be abandoned since the Division has not been receiving annual reports or permit fees.

#### Observations:

The mill site is next to Westwater Creek north of I-70 not far from the Colorado border. Most of the disturbed area is above the creek flood plain, but there is some screening equipment among the tamarisks in the flood plain. The portion of the site above the flood plain has been cleared of brush and some soil, probably with a dozer. In this area are two frac tanks (Photos 1 and 3) and a pit about 100 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 10 feet deep (Photo 2).

There is a large patch of Russian knapweed, a noxious weed, near the frac tanks. Most of the vegetation in Photos 1 and 3 is Russian knapweed. Closer to the edges of the bladed area, a lot of greasewood has become established.

I used a global positioning system unit to map the disturbance area, and a copy of the map is attached. The total disturbance is 8.28 acres which categorizes the site as a large mine.

#### Conclusions and Recommendations:

The operator should attempt to control the Russian knapweed. This is a rhizomatous perennial plant that will require persistence to control.

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Page 2

Natural Organic Fertilizer Mill

Inspection Date: May 29, 2003; Report Date: June 19, 2003

S/019/054

Although the amount of area disturbed places the mine in the category of a large mine, little or no reclamation would be required for the Division to release much of the disturbance. The site is not in compliance but could be brought back into compliance by staking out a five-acre area that includes the equipment, the trench, and non-native vegetation.

I saw no signs of recent activity. The Division needs to contact the operator about annual reports and permit fees and should also ask what activities are planned for the future.

jb

cc: Eugene Tuttle, Operator

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**ATTACHMENT**

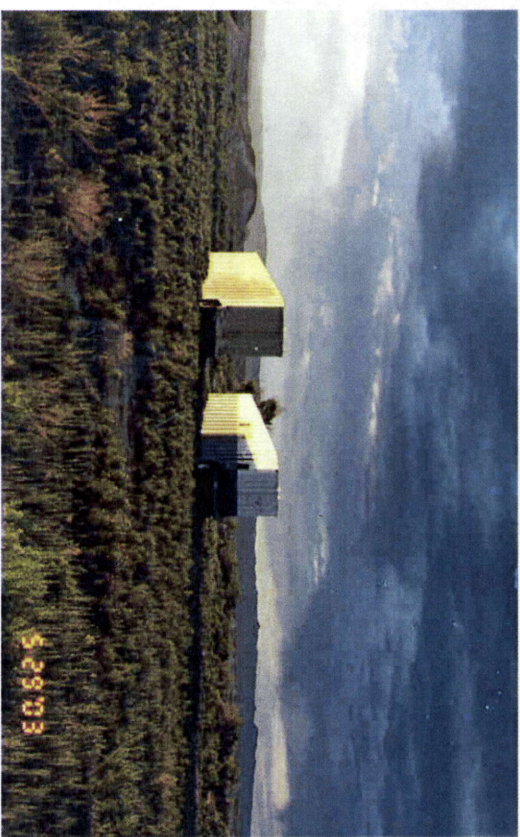
**Inspection Date: May 29, 2003; Report Date: June 19, 2003**

**Photographs**

**S/019/054, Natural Organic Fertilizer Mill**



**Photo 1. Frac tanks and some of the disturbance.**



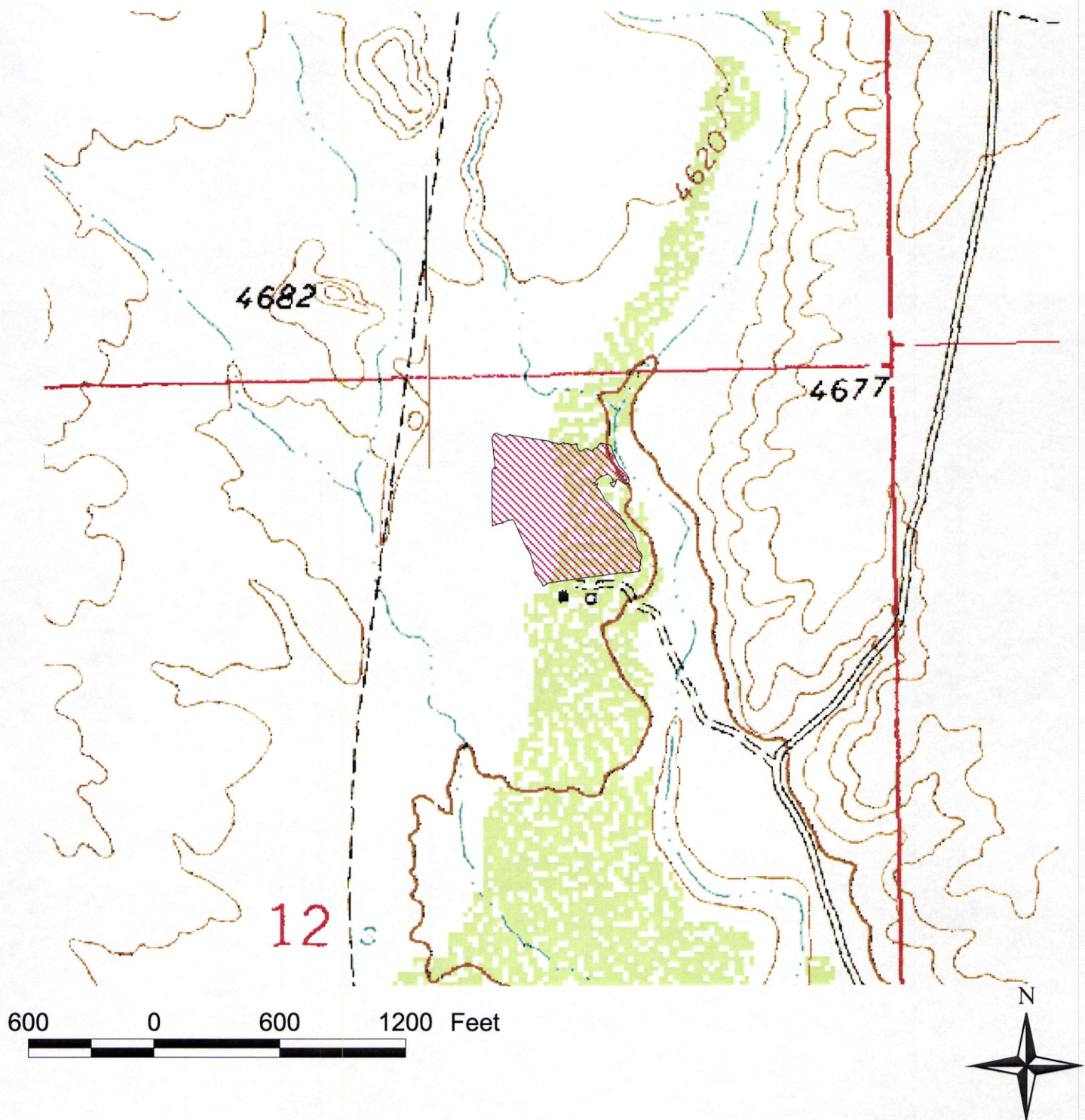
**Photo 3. Frac tanks viewed from the south. Most of the vegetation in the foreground is Russian knapweed.**



**Photo 2. Pit near the north side of the disturbed area.**



# Natural Organic Mill S/019/054



Harley Dome Quadrangle. NE1/4 Section 12, Township 19 South, Range 24 East, SLBM. Map created June 16, 2003, from GPS data gathered May 29, 2003, by Paul Baker. This map may not meet Division standards for accuracy and content because different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

 Disturbed Area 8.28 Acres